six-months period of service in excess of 33 years subject to a limit of 35 years;

(b) if so, whether the recommendation was accepted;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is now proposed to accept and implement the same in order to give some relief to the pensioners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Fifth CPC recommended additional pension at the rate of 0.5 per cent of emoluments for each completed six monthly period of service or one per cent of emoluments for each year of service in excess of 33 years. No upper limit was prescribed by the Commission.

(b) to (d) The recommendations was examined in the Government and in view of the administrative, legal and financial difficulties, it was not accepted. Implementation of the other major recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission has considerably enhanced the amount of pension in general.

Automatic merger of dearness relief with pension

2455. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Central Pay Commission had recommended an automatic merger of Dearness Relief with pension in the case of pensioners simultaneously whenever Dearness Allowance is merged with pay in the case of serving employees;

(b) whether the decision has been accepted and implemented by Government;

(c) if not, the reasons for the discriminatory treatment to the serving and the retired employees; and

(d) whether Government would have a second look into the matter, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The recommendation has not been accepted. However, no discriminatory treatment has been meted out to pensioners *vis-a-vis* serving employees. In the case of serving employees also, the DA has not been merged with pay.

CBI inquiry against higher officers

†2456. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI has conducted inquiry against the persons working in the posts of Secretary, Joint Secretary, Director and Deputy Director during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of such persons against whom inquiry has been conducted since March, 1999 to till date; and

(c) the number of persons, out of them, suspended from their services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Central Bureau of Investigation has reported that it has conducted investigation / inquiry against 211 persons working in posts of Secretary, Joint Secretary, Director etc. during the period 1999 to 30th June, 2002.

(c) The Central Bureau of Investigation has further reported that according to information available with them, out of the above persons, 30 persons have been suspended from service during the last three years.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.